

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated November 26, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 26, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1 and 3-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 13-14, 16 and 21-26 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 4-5, 11-12, 15, 17-20 and 27-38 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 7, 9-10, 13, 16 and 21 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter.

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22-26 are allowed.

Claims 5, 18, 20, 21 and 28-38 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 21 has been rewritten and is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 5, 18, 20 and 28-38 are canceled.

Claims 10 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claim 10, which is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5, 11, 16, 18-21 and 28-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have made appropriate corrections to the remaining pending claims. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11, 13, 15 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Farrar et al.* (U.S. 6,330,552, hereinafter "*Farrar*"). Applicants

respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants submit that the claims pending following entry of this response have been amended pursuant to the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Claims 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Simmen*. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004//0181521, hereinafter "*Simmen*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants submit that the claims pending following entry of this response have been amended pursuant to the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Conclusion

The amendments presented with this response are believed to place all remaining pending claims in condition for allowance. If the Examiner maintains that any unresolved issues prevent the application from going to issuance, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the attorney signing below to resolve such issues and move prosecution forward.

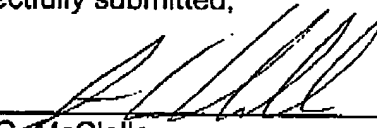
Applicants further submit that no concessions are being made with respect to canceled or otherwise unclaimed subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute additional claims in a continuation application. However, the Applicants' election not to pursue a continuation application is not a concession with respect to any unclaimed subject matter.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

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Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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